

NRCS Alabama

Current Developments



July 1, 2004

From The State Conservationist - *Robert N. Jones*

We routinely think of November as the time to give thanks. In reality, we should express those thoughts all year long. I want to say a big "Welcome Home" to Lawrence McGhee. Our thoughts and prayers were with him while he was on active duty, and we are very grateful for his safe return.

I saw an interesting sight recently. As I crossed the Tallapoosa River on Highway 280 just before Alexander City, I noticed yellow ribbons tied along both sides of the bridge. I don't know who those ribbons were intended for, but they certainly express our sentiments. It's good to have you back, Lawrence.

I have another reason to be thankful. I was recently selected to receive the Soil

Conservationist of the Year Award, an award given by the Alabama Wildlife Federation. I count it a great honor to be selected for this award. I realize, however, that while I am the recipient of the award, much of the credit goes to the good work accomplished by the Alabama NRCS employees. It is my honor and privilege to serve as the conservation leader for this team. I'm grateful to all of you for your contributions in bringing this honor to a representative of NRCS. I will accept this award on behalf of all of us at an awards ceremony the end of July.

Bob

AL Wildlife Federation Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards

Alabama State Conservationist Robert (Bob) N. Jones has been selected by the Alabama Wildlife Federation as the Soil Conservationist of the Year. The Alabama Wildlife Federation's Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards are the most prestigious conservation awards in the state. For over 30 years, the awards have been presented to individuals and organizations that make great contributions to the conservation of our wildlife and related natural resources.

The purpose of the Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards program is to promote leadership by example and in turn increase conservation of the natural resources of the State of

Alabama – its wildlife, forests, soils, water, and air. The program is designed to bring about a greater knowledge and awareness of conservation practices and projects, and to give proper recognition to those persons and organizations that make outstanding contributions to the natural resource welfare of the community and the state.

The award will be presented at a reception and banquet in late July.



Bob Jones, NRCS State Conservationist is AWF's Soil Conservationist of the Year

Alabama Invasive Plant Council Meets in Montgomery

Alabama NRCS is actively involved with the Alabama Invasive Plant Council. The Council held its second annual meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, in May 2004. The Council was established in 2003 as a non-profit state-wide organization to:

Ben Moore (r)
talks with keynote
speaker **Dr. Randy
Westbrooks,**
**National Invasive
Plant Coordinator,**
**U.S. Geological
Survey.**



- Initiate action to prevent future introductions and the spread of invasive pest plants in Alabama and the Southeast
- Raise awareness about the threat posed by invasive pest plants in Alabama
- Facilitate communication and exchange of information
- Provide a forum for all interested parties to participate and provide input on the problem and solutions
- Serve as an educational, advisory, and technical support council on all aspects of invasive plant issues.

"Alabama is being silently invaded by non-native plant species," says Keith Tassin, with The Nature Conservancy in Birmingham, AL, and President of the Alabama Invasive Plant Council. "These plants are not just garden nuisances; they are changing the way natural areas function, and are costing all of us money." An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is 1) non-native to the ecosystem under consideration, and 2) whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. "The Alabama Invasive Plant Council is striving to substantially reduce the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species in Alabama and to decrease their impacts on native ecosystems and biodiversity. These aren't invaders from other worlds, but unwitting travelers—organisms we have moved, by design or accident, from one region of the world to another," says NRCS Agronomist Ben Moore.

In two short years, the Alabama group has made tremendous progress. They have identified Alabama's 10 Worst Invasive Weeds—Kudzu, Cogongrass, Tropical Soda Apple, Tallowtree, Chinese Privet, Japanese Climbing Fern, Invasive Roses, Hydrilla, Eurasian Water Milfoil, and Alligator Weed. They are developing a data base to serve as a framework for identifying invasive plants in Alabama, the extent of the problem, and the treatment that is taking place.

Alabama NRCS established a special Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help control invasive species. When the first batching period closed on April 16th, there were 208 applications

representing a request for incentive payments amounting to \$607,000. Seventy-three applications were approved for contracting totaling approximately \$250,000.



Cogongrass (l)
and kudzu are
on the list of
Alabama's 10
worst invasive
plants.



Alabama Chapter of SWCS Annual Meeting a Success

by Julie A. Best, Public Affairs Specialist, Auburn, AL

The 2004 Alabama Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Annual Meeting was an event that provided a little of everything—informative speakers, a great field trip, and wonderful food! “Protecting Our Water Supply” was the theme, and all aspects of the meeting tied in with the theme. The meeting attracted about 100 participants, presenters, and vendor representatives.

One tour stop was on the field of AU Jordan Hare Stadium. The athletic division of AU has 15 acres of turf that are managed for sporting events. Water quality and quantity are important components of managing athletic fields.



At the Florida Rock Industries-West Lee County Quarry, a representative told of the various measures taken to control erosion and contamination of local water supplies. The granite rock site is 400 acres in size with reserves in excess of 40 years.

The WestPoint Stevens Inc.-Opelika Finishing Plant constructed two wetlands. Each wetland serves a function in wastewater treatment for the plant.



The National Center for Asphalt Technology Test Track is a facility managed by Auburn University. Forty-five 200 foot sections have been built around a 1.7-mile oval to facilitate field performance comparisons in an identical climate where traffic conditions are precisely monitored.

Rabbit Production is a Hopping Business in Alabama

By Julie A. Best, Public Affairs Specialist, NRCS, Auburn, AL

The rabbit industry in Alabama has evolved from a few interested individuals into an organization of business-minded producers. RC&D councils across the state have served as the catalyst for this emerging industry.

Interested producers in Alabama formed the Tri-State Rabbit Growers Association. "The rabbit industry is not new to Alabama, but what makes this attempt unique is the development of an infrastructure to make the operation profitable for the producers," says Mason Dollar, NRCS Resource Program Manager of the RC&D Program in Alabama. The RC&D councils have helped identify a market (Carnival Cruise Lines—the contract calls for 33,000 pounds of rabbit meat over a 12-month period), established a hauling schedule, contracted with a processing facility, and coordinated workshops to disseminate information.

According to Mike Cornett, Coordinator of the Tombigbee RC&D Council and the lead coordinator for this statewide project, "A problem of previous attempts at rabbit production was cash flow." To address that the Tombigbee RC&D Council is managing cash flow disbursements. All those involved in the processing receive their money within

Rabbit production is the type of project that fits the RC&D program.



a week's time. Tombigbee RC&D Council bills the cruise line, and approximately 60 days later, the disbursed funds are recouped.

"The success of the project has been the cooperation of the growers and their initial interest, and the partnerships that have formed," says Cornett. The Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture came on board and, in addition to providing funds to support the project, assigned Glen Zorn, Deputy Commissioner, to work with the group. "Developing the rabbit industry is one of my top priorities and I am

committed to ensuring that we see this project through as we open a new market for our Alabama farmers and their products," says Alabama Agricultural Commissioner Ron Sparks. Other partners include the Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (Auburn University, Alabama A&M University, and Tuskegee University); Alabama Farmers Cooperative; and USDA-Rural Development, which will assist with the next phase of the industry—forming a cooperative.

"This is the type of project that fits the RC&D program," says Dollar, "and why rabbit production was adopted as a statewide project by the Alabama RC&D Council."



The infrastructure of the newly emerging rabbit industry in Alabama is one of the keys to the success of the statewide project.

Minority Business Leaders Meet in Selma

Ronald Langston, Director of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), visited the Pioneer Innovation Centre in Selma, Alabama, to meet with Selma's minority business leaders. He provided suggestions about the programs and services that MBDA and the Department of Commerce offers to ethnic and minority business owners. DownSouth Foods hosted the event. Minority business owners had the opportunity to vent frustrations with getting necessary funds and equipment to expand their operations.

Langston expressed his commitment to provide assistance to small businesses. He emphasized that the potential is huge, but a plan is required to make it happen. Langston said, "This is not about loves—this is a business decision. You must show the need, develop the plan, show the return on the investment, and then it can happen." To learn more about the services provided by MBDA, the Selma group plans to meet with the regional MBDA representative.



Langston (l) listens to Arthur Jackson explain the need for equipment that will cut collard greens. Currently, the greens are cut by hand by the lady in the foreground.

Recycling Computers

What do you do with NRCS computers when they are updated and no longer needed? Alabama NRCS solved that dilemma recently by donating computers to various schools across the state. Susan Dillard, NRCS computer specialist, who coordinated the effort, said, "NRCS has the opportunity to donate computers no longer used by our agency to schools throughout the United States. At the present time, Alabama NRCS has donated 55 computers. It has been a pleasure to work with the schools and to provide them with this equipment." The schools agreed to accept computers (including mouse, keyboard, monitor, and CPU). Each school is responsible for installing the operating system and software.



Susan Dillard transfers ownership of computers to Principal Peterson of Amelia Love Johnson High School, Thomaston, AL. The rural school, with less than 450 students in grades K-12, is one of several schools across the state to receive computers no longer used by NRCS.

Continuing to Improve Water Quality on Sand Mountain

By Deana Lasater Mann, Soil Conservationist, Guntersville, AL

With funds designated to the Sand Mountain-Lake Guntersville Watershed by U.S. House of Representative Robert Aderholt, several projects have been planned and have started to improve the quality of the natural resources in Marshall and DeKalb Counties.

One such project has been completed on Holly McCauley's farm, a broiler and cattle producer in eastern Marshall County. The installed practice was an innovative concept and design that will reduce organics and pathogens in surface water as well as improve soil quality.

In previous years, Mr. McCauley's hay feeding area was a muddy, mucky mess during the winter months. However, with some land shaping and the

installation of geotextile cloth and crusher run gravel, his problem is now a thing of the past. The area has been sloped and he can now push hay into an elevated rack that holds ten to twelve bales. The cattle stand on the treated heavy use protection area and reach through the rack to eat. The area is scraped with a front-end loader, the manure is composted, and can be safely applied to pasture in the spring.

The newly installed system has decreased the amount of organics, pathogens, and soil that was being washed down into the small creek below the area. It also has significantly reduced the amount of hay being lost to spoilage.

Before

the installation of the heavy-use area protection, the cattle feeding area became a quagmire during winter months, causing water quality problems.



After

A heavy-use protection area for feeding the cattle has been installed which has decreased runoff and reduced the amount of hay lost to spoilage.

Catoma Creek Water Quality Testing

By April Jones, District Conservationist, Montgomery, AL

The Montgomery County SWCD/NRCS partnered with Auburn University (AU) and the Montgomery Water Works and Sewer Board to study the Catoma Creek Watershed.

Catoma Creek in Montgomery is classified on the 303d list as impaired for fecal pollution. Determining the source of fecal contamination is necessary to develop effective control strategies. The partners have come together to track bacterial nonpoint source pollution in the Catoma Creek watershed using DNA fingerprinting and geo-spatial techniques. AU researchers collect samples within



AU Master's student Udenika Wijesinghe collects fecal samples from chickens for DNA finger-printing.



AU Researcher John Owen collects a water sample from Catoma Creek.

the Watershed each month. Measurements taken at each site include pH, temperature, and stream flow. In addition to measuring standard water quality parameters, the researchers are working to identify the sources of *E. coli* contamination. The researchers are collecting fecal samples from animals such as cows, horses, wild turkey, white-tail deer, domestic cats and dogs, chickens, Canada geese, coyotes, and even humans to pinpoint the exact source of the contamination. DNA profiles of each *E. coli* cultured from the samples will be used to match the *E. coli* in the water to the *E. coli* from the animal. This information should prove useful in identifying the exact sources of pollution.

AU Researchers John Owen, Brenda Wood, Udenika Wijesinghe, and student Amiel Ollie, measure stream flow at Baldwin Slough in the Catoma Creek Watershed.



Big Escambia Creek Restoration Project Tour

The Big Escambia Creek Restoration Project is a story of two states (Alabama and Florida), two counties (Escambia County, Alabama, and Escambia County, Florida), two cities (Flomaton, Alabama, and Century, Florida), and multiple agencies. Through the cooperative efforts of all of these groups, the citizens of Century, Florida, and Flomaton, Alabama, can finally see results from years of work to correct problems along the Big Escambia Creek. Interested citizens had an opportunity to view that progress at a recent tour of the project sponsored by the Three Rivers RC&D Council and the Gulf Coast RC&D Council.

The problems began about 25 years ago after a flood caused the path of the creek to shift. The relocated channel is west of the original channel and is obstructed by two logjams within a 2-mile reach. The relocated channel flows through sand pits which increases the sedimentation flowing into the Escambia River.

After years of study, and with the cooperative efforts of public officials and environmentalists in Florida and Alabama, the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers (COE) funded the restoration project. The restoration project calls for clearing and snagging about four miles of the channel excavation, constructing a diversion structure, dredging the pilot channel, and returning the Big Escambia Creek to its original channel.

Charles Owens, COE, says, "This is a great day for the partners. The project is ahead of schedule, and it's exciting to see the work that has been done. The work will rehydrate about 1,000 acres of surrounding wetlands, restore approximately 850 acres of bottomland and swamp hardwood communities, and restore freshwater fish habitat." Total cost of the project is about \$7.7 million, with the COE chipping in \$5 million, Florida Three Rivers RC&D Council providing \$1.6 million, and Alabama Gulf Coast RC&D Council contributing \$270,000.

According to Charles Ramsey, Coordinator for Gulf Coast RC&D Council, "This is the largest eco-restoration project in the Southeast. It will serve as a model for similar projects." The project is to be completed by September 2005.



Work is ahead of schedule on the Big Escambia Creek Restoration Project. In addition to clearing and snagging, the channel will be restored to its original location. The project is located along the Alabama/ Florida line, north of Florida Highway 4.

Who, What, Where, and Why of the CRAC

by April Jones, Chair, Alabama NRCS CRAC



Who Are We? The Civil Rights Advisory Committee is composed of 14 members and four advisory non-voting members. All committee members are employees of Alabama NRCS who are willing to serve while carrying out normal duties. The membership of the committee represents minority and nonminority groups, women, and various grade levels and classification series.

What is the purpose of the committee? We assist the State Conservationist (STC) in promoting meaningful and effective affirmative action consistent with the goals and objectives set forth by management. We provide feedback on the performance of equal opportunity, workforce diversity, and civil rights programs. We help to identify items needing special attention. The committee also makes recommendations to the STC regarding policies, practices, and procedures that affect the achievement of equal opportunity, workforce diversity, and civil rights goals and objectives.

Where are we located? We are located throughout the state. We have two committee members from each administrative area — North Team: Tim Williams and Jason Gardner; East Team: April Jones and Tanga Skinner; West Team: Terry Williamson and Joyce Nicholas; and the State Office: Sarah Walker and Travis Burns. We also have six special emphasis program managers:

- Federal Women's Program – Linda McGraw
- American Indian Program – David Elliott
- Hispanic Employment Program – Carolyn King
- African American Program – Johnny Trayvick
- Disability Employment Program – Fay Garner
- Asian Pacific American Program – Clark Painter

Our four advisory members are STC Bob Jones, Human Resources Officer Paul Swenson, Deputy Equal Opportunity Officer Jim Chaffin, and Outreach Liason Andrew Williams.

Why do we exist? We exist to guarantee the fair and equitable treatment of USDA customers and employees while ensuring the delivery and enforcement of civil rights programs and activities. Some past and on-going projects include: hosting

Cultural Diversity Events, generating reports as requested by management (summer intern training, Employee Recognition Program, Promotion Report); and developing and presenting training about the EEO complaint process. The Special Emphasis Program Managers also send out timely information about their individual programs.

We recently sent a Civil Rights Advisory Committee Concern/Suggestion Form to all employees. If you have a concern or suggestion, please fill out the form and send it to any committee member. The form, located on the web at: ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/AL/info/CRACconcern-sugg_form.pdf, will be kept confidential.

We are here to help you with concerns and complaints about equal opportunity, workforce diversity, and civil rights.

Disability and Hispanic Heritage Month Poster Contests

Here is an opportunity for you to get your creative juices flowing and submit a poster in two contests. Each year for Disability and Hispanic Heritage Months a poster created by NRCS full- or part-time employees is selected though a nation-wide contest. The prize is \$250 spot awards given to the employees whose posters are chosen. The requirements for both are: they must contain the theme, must be electronic, and must show diversity.

The Disability Month Theme is: "Judge Us By Our Ability, Not By Our Disability" Send your entry by COB July 9, 2004, to Fay.Garner@al.usda.gov. The final selection will be made by Aug. 20, 2004.

The Hispanic Heritage Month Theme is: "Hispanic Americans; Making a Difference in Our Communities and Our Nation." Send your entry by COB July 23, 2004, to Carolyn.C.King@al.usda.gov. Final selection will be made by August 13, 2004.

MLRA Soils News

National Land Judging Contest

by Ken Johnson, Resource Soil Scientist, Grove Hill, AL

I was privileged in May 2004 to travel to Oklahoma City, OK, with the Alabama State Land Judging champions to attend the National Land Judging Contest. Winning the state land judging championship is a much coveted prize for many Ag teachers and their teams. The Alabama 2004 winner was the Hurricanes of Alma Bryant High School at Grand Bay in Mobile County. The school Ag advisor Robin Clark, has been hotly pursuing this title for a number of years, gaining the number



**Alma Bryant High School -
2004 Winners of the Alabama
State Land Judging Contest**

two spot several years in a row. This is the first time that the team has won the state champion honor.

As we traveled to Oklahoma, the team members-old hands at the mechanics of the Alabama contest-were busy gaining as much knowledge of the national contest rules as they could. I, on the other hand, having been to the national contest several times, was looking for new ways to peak their interest, increase their excitement, and to also enhance their knowledge of soils, land use, and soil and water conservation.

The first chance we got to stop in Oklahoma (a good road bank), we began to test our skills of texturing soils and applying the national contest rules to the adjacent landscapes. There is nothing like "hands on" experience when teaching soils to reinforce knowledge of the subject. As team members Justin Fancher, Dustin Mallet, Mike Hurd, and teacher Robin Clarke soon learned, Oklahoma soils have a lot more silt than south Alabama soils.

The sessions at the practice sites in Oklahoma City went very well, and we had a lot of study sessions at night. The team members felt good about

their knowledge of the rules, and Robin Clark and I were pleased with their progress. With high hopes and confidence, we were ready for the contest.

To put a good spin on a disappointing day, this was just not our year. We thought the team was well prepared and experienced, but the national contest is indeed a challenge. I think the team's inexperience was the most prevailing factor when the cards were graded that day.

However, with an eye to the future, I feel good about the overall experience. For the first time ever, Alabama sent three teams to the national contest: Alma Bryant High School of Mobile County, Horse Shoe Bend High School of Tallapoosa County, and Sand Rock High School of DeKalb County. This gives us widespread experience throughout the state in the national competition, and, along with our recent state rule changes, should lead to success in the years to come.

ArcGIS Training at Auburn University

Over 30 USDA employees recently attended a 3-day workshop on ESRI's software ArcGIS at the Auburn University Library. While many attending were from Alabama, the instructors were from Texas and participants came from as far away as Puerto Rico and Idaho. From the comments of those in attendance, the workshop was a great success.

*Glenn Shea (l),
Idaho NRCS
Resource
Conservationist,
and Steve
Musser,
Alabama NRCS
Resource
Conservationist,
discuss an
ArcGIS
exercise.*



Close Up Look At Mike Golden

by John L. Burns, Soil Scientist, Alexander City, AL

Mike Golden, Director of the National Soil Survey Division, attended the March 2004 Alabama Cooperative Soil Survey Work Planning Conference at Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Tuscaloosa is the site of the second Super Soil Survey Project Office in Alabama.

Mike grew up near Ada, Oklahoma, and has a B.S. in Agronomy (Soils) from Oklahoma State University. Mr. Golden mentioned that he is very interested in genealogy, and he has family roots in Alabama. He has 30 years work experience with the agency working in New Mexico and Texas. Before acquiring his current position, he was Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Region-9 leader and State Soil Scientist of Texas.

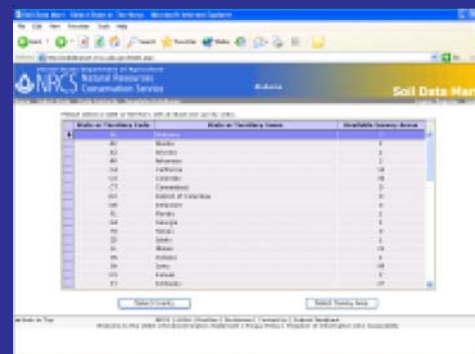
Mike is a down-to-earth kind of individual, genuine, and a field person who worked his way up through the ranks. He mentioned many goals he has as Director of Soil Survey. The concepts he supports and wants to strengthen include: MLRA Project Office; MO office structure; technical soil services in states; National Soil Survey Center (NSSC) and national leaders; National Cartography and Geospatial Center (NCGC) soil support branch; SSURGO

initiative; Geospatial Data Warehouse; improved technologies such as publication via "Web Soil Survey" Data Mart (<http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov>); National Soil Information System (NASIS); and Soil Data Viewer.

He mentioned that soil surveys are going to the next level through marketing, technical soil services, and new technology. The new web-based soil surveys will be able to be customized to deliver the information the customer needs.

We look forward in having Mike Golden as the Director of the National Soil Survey Division.

Soil Data View is the backbone of the new technology which provides access to web-based soil survey info.



Thank You for Your Support!

by Lawrence McGhee, Soil Survey Project Leader, Tallapoosa County

For one year, two months, and twelve days I was on active duty with the U.S. Army. During my deployment, I served 11 months and 17 days in the Middle East, nearly 6,000 miles from Alabama. I write this short message, not to highlight my accomplishments, but to express my sincere appreciation to you, my NRCS and USDA family.

While away from home and work, many of you sent care packages, e-mails, cards, pictures, and words of encouragement, prayers, or just a simple thought. I want to express my sincere appreciation to you for the many gestures of support. The desert is a beautiful but extremely unforgiving place. I can't express in words what you mean to me. I want to especially thank the Tallapoosa-Coosa County Service Center employees and others that showed unwavering support to my wife and family. This is not a part of your job description, but you did it anyway.

You are truly a class act and I am proud to be a part of the USDA-NRCS family. The battle is not over, so let's continue to support our soldiers. Thank You!!! (Note: Lawrence returned to work in April.)

Lawrence takes a rest on the back of a camel at a major intersection in Iraq.



Retiree News

From Jesse Bush

The fall retiree meeting will be in Anniston/Oxford on September 9, 2004. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for good food and fellowship. This will be a 1-day meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending about 2:00 p.m. The exact location will be announced later.

We are saddened by the death of Joe and June Spooner's daughter, Cynthia Dale Spooner Hanks of Auburn. Cynthia lost her battle with cancer on Thursday, June 19, at UAB in Birmingham and was buried in Auburn on Tuesday, June 22. Donations may be made to their children's scholarship fund: The Cindi Hanks Fund, Auburn Bank, P.O. Box 3110, Auburn, AL 36831 or to the Joe Lee Griffin Hope Lodge, 1104 Ireland Way, Birmingham, AL 35205-7010. You can read about her journey and send messages to the family on her web page at: <http://www.caringbridge.org/al/cindiswebpage/>.

Personnel

Accessions

Merry Buford, Soil Conservationist, Andalusia, AL
(Effective Date 07/11/04)

Gwendolyn Lewis, District Conservationist, Tuskegee, AL
Joe Norris, Cartographic Technician, Auburn, AL

Promotions

Fay Garner, Public Affairs Assistant, Auburn, AL
Murray Griffin, District Conservationist, Oneonta, AL to
District Conservationist, Cullman, AL

Shane King, Agricultural Engineer, Oxford, AL
Jerome Langlinais, Soil Survey Project Leader, NRCS,
Natchez, MS to Soil Survey Project Leader, Tuscaloosa,
AL (Effective Date 07/11/04)

Deana Lasater, Soil Conservationist, Guntersville, AL
Wade Williams, Soil Conservation Technician, Eutaw, AL

Reassignments

Larry Hardy, District Conservationist, Marion, AL to NRCS,
District Conservationist, Macon, MS

Transfers In

Scott Guinn, Soil Scientist, NRCS, WY to Soil Conservationist,
Troy, AL

Trent Mathews, Soil Conservationist, NRCS, Walton City, FL
to Soil Conservationist, Rainsville, AL

Resignations

Duane Nappier, Soil Conservation Technician, Wedowee, AL

Summer Interns

Solomon Andrews, Tuscumbia, AL, Alabama
A&M University

Kendrick Flowers, Mobile, AL, Alabama A&M University

Curtis Fluker, Jackson, AL, Tuskegee University

Jacob Hodnett, Alexander City, AL, Auburn University

Nathan Howle, Gadsden, AL, Auburn University

Trumaine Jackson, Dothan, AL, Alabama A&M University

Sharon Lewis, Montgomery, AL, Tuskegee University

Lauren Mitchell, Guntersville, AL, Auburn University

Antoinette Pulliam, Opelika, AL, Alabama A&M University

Amanda Zelasko, Luverne, AL, Southern Illinois University

PowerPoint Tips

Moving Quickly Between Slides

If an audience member asks you a question during your slide show that refers to a specific slide in your presentation, you can quickly navigate to the slide needed. Simply type the number of the slide you want to display and press [Enter]. You can use this technique to bring up any slide in your presentation in the blink of an eye.

Selecting all text in an active text box (PowerPoint 2002)

When you enter text onto a slide, the insertion point remains after the last character you type. Now, if

you select a new font type (such as Arial), font characteristic (such as Bold), or font size, only the text you enter after you've made the style change is affected. To change all of the text within the textbox at once, you first need to select either the text box's bounding box, or highlight all of the text you want to change. Typically you'd use the mouse to accomplish this, but there's a quicker and easier way. The next time you want to apply a style change to the text you've already typed, first make sure the insertion point is still within the text box and then simply press [Esc]. When you do, the entire box is selected and any style changes you make are applied to all of the text within the box simultaneously.

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